

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DPW-01 DHA-02 AID-05 EB-07 COME-00

TRSE-00 AGR-05 /099 W

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R 081045Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9368

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, TH, CB

SUBJECT: ARE THAI-CAMBODIAN TALKS IN THE OFFING?

REF: BANGKOK 15086

1. CAMBODIA APPEARS TO BE INCHING ITS WAY TO HOLDING SUBSTANTIVE TALKS WITH THAILAND. SINCE THE JULY 25 MEETING BETWEEN MINOR OFFICIALS OF THE TWO COUNTRIES ON THE CAMBODIAN SIDE OF THE FRONTIER NEAR ARANYAPRATHET (REF A), THERE HAVE BEEN FURTHER SIGNALS LEADING TO THIS CONCLUSION.

2. FIRST, PRIME MINISTER KHUKRIT PRAMOT STATED JULY 27 THAT HE WAS READY TO MEET KHMER LEADERS IN EITHER BANGKOK OR PHNOM PENH AND OFFERED AID IN THE FORM OF FOOD AND CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS. AT ALMOST THE SAME TIME, RADIO PHNOM PENH BEGAN ITS NEWS BROADCAST WITH A STATEMENT THAT THERE IS NOW "THE BEST ATMOSPHERE EVER FOR PROSPECTS FOR GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN CAMBODIA AND THAILAND." IT WELCOMED

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AN EXPRESSION OF HOPE FOR GOOD RELATIONS THAT

KHUKRIT HAD MADE EARLIER IN THE PHILIPPINES,  
DECLARING THAT CAMBODIAN POLICY IS TO HAVE SUCH  
RELATIONS WITH ALL FRIENDLY COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY  
NEIGHBORING ONES. THIS BROADCAST SENT THAI HOPES  
SOARING.

3. ON AUGUST 2 A CAMBODIAN BORDER OFFICIAL REPORTEDLY  
SAID THAT DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER KHIEU SAMPHAN HOPES  
TO MEET RTG FOREIGN MINISTER CHATCHAI CHUNHAWAN  
SOON IN BANGKOK AND THAT GRUNK BADLY NEEDS  
PETROLEUM, WHICH IT WOULD LIKE TO PURCHASE FROM  
THAILAND. ON THE FOLLOWING DAY CHATCHAI SAID  
THIS WAS GOOD NEWS AND HE WOULD GLADLY MEET THE  
CAMBODIANS AT EITHER CAPITAL OR AT THE BORDER. HE  
ADDED THAT THAILAND WOULD LIKE TO HELP CAMBODIA  
WITH SUCH ITEMS AS FOOD AND FUEL.

4. FINALLY, THE DISTRICT OFFICER AT ARANYAPRATHET,  
CHEMNONG U-PO, TOLD THE PRESS OF HIS CONTACT AUGUST  
6 WITH A CAMBODIAN REPRESENTATIVE (PROBABLY HAK SRENG,  
THE SAME ONE WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE JULY 25  
ENCOUNTER), ON THE LATTER'S INITIATIVE. THE  
CAMBODIAN SHOWED HIM A DOCUMENT FROM GRUNK  
FOREIGN MINISTER SARIN CHHAK EXPRESSING THE DESIRE TO  
HOLD TALKS WITH THAI OFFICIALS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE  
AT POIPET, ON THE SUBJECT OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE  
TWO COUNTRIES. BOTH SIDES ARE SAID TO HAVE AGREED  
THAT A MEETING WILL BE HELD ON A MINISTERIAL LEVEL.  
IN BANGKOK, WINYU ANGKHANARAK, DEPUTY UNDER  
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INTERIOR, CONFIRMED THAT  
TALKS WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE SAME LOCATION AUGUST  
10 TO DISCUSS A POSSIBLE AGENDA FOR THIS MEETING.

5. COMMENT. CAMBODIA MAY BE FINDING THAT IT IS  
OBLIGED TO EMERGE FROM ITS SHELL AND TALK TO ITS  
RICHER NEIGHBOR TO THE WEST, PARTICULARLY TO OBTAIN  
FUEL WHICH REFUGEES TELL US IS IN SHORT SUPPLY.  
THE USE OF SARIN CHHAK'S NAME, IF TRUE, WOULD APPEAR  
TO INDICATE THAT HE IS TIED IN TO THE PHNOM PENH  
AUTHORITY RATHER THAN JUST TO GRUNK'S PEKING  
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BRANCH, AND TO APPEASE THE THAI FOREIGN MINISTRY  
OFFICIALS SEEKING MORE THAN SMALL SIGNALS FROM  
UNKNOWN CAMBODIANS AT POIPEP AS A BASIS ON WHIIH  
TO HOLD DISCUSSIONS. WHETHER ALL OF THIS WILL CULMINATE  
IN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, AS THE THAI VERY MUCH HOPE,  
IS ANYONE'S GUESS.

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